

15-term Rangel in a phone interview last week. "Any city or any town or village know the Congress is with them, like they're with New York City."

Rangel acknowledged that there are several logistical obstacles, including where the session would be held and security issues, to iron out, but said that should not get in the way of members' support.

"No one's turning us down," Rangel added. "I know I can get my signatures next week."

Rangel and Gilman have written Dear Colleague letters, asking their support for the measure.

"We are equally impressed by our colleagues' support of a symbolic—but powerful—gesture to convene the Congress in New York for one day," write Rangel and Gilman in a Nov. 14 letter. "We believe that such a session in the city where Congress first convened would be a powerful and meaningful expression of support to New York."

The session would also provide an opportunity for all lawmakers to meet with New Yorkers, the letter adds.

The movement to bring Congress to the Big Apple was catalyzed on the editorial page of the Sept. 25 New York Daily News. The New York tabloid wrote an editorial urging a joint session of Congress in New York City, even if it is only for one day.

Rangel quickly picked up the cause and introduced a resolution on Oct. 12; New York Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D) and Charles Schumer (D), followed suit, introducing a companion resolution Nov. 15.

"We're working actively to see that it happens," said Schumer, of his and Clinton's efforts. "It would be a shot in the arm for New York."

In the House, the resolution has captured the support of 53 Republicans and 112 Democrats, ranging from Empire State liberals like Rep. Jerrold Nadler to Midwestern conservatives like Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) and Don Manzullo (R-Ill.). The entire 31-member New York State delegation has signed on, as well as several other members from the Northeast.

With the exception of retiring House Minority Whip David Bonior (Mich), the entire Democratic leadership has pledged its support for the resolution, but no one from the House GOP leadership. It has, however, received the support of other influential Republicans, including Appropriations Committee Chairman Bill Young (Fla.) and Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Billy Tauzin (La.).

"Everyone has been extremely receptive," Rangel said. "But when we get to the logistics, I hope they'll love me as much in the springtime as they do in the fall."

Other members are wary to sign on until finding out more details.

"I saw the note from Charlie [Rangel], but Gosh, it's an interesting concept, but I don't know if I'm for it or against it," said House Republican Conference Chairman Rep. J.C. Watts (R-Okla.).

"I do find it quite intriguing we would consider something like that," he added. "I'm sure we would look at the pros and cons and give it a fair hearing. It seems to be a massive undertaking to move the mechanics of Congress to another location."

While his primary focus is gaining as many signatures as he can, Rangel said he is looking into about six sites. He added that he is working with New York City Mayor-elect Michael Bloomberg (R) and other city leaders, like Bill Ruden, the chairman of the Association for a Better New York.

Ed Skyler, a spokesman for the Bloomberg Transition Team, said the mayor-elect

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

"strongly supports" the resolution. He added that Bloomberg discussed the issue during his trip to Washington earlier this month.

Those in support of the resolution say the logistics can be hammered out at a later time.

"A lot of those things would need to be worked out," acknowledged Schumer, adding that lawmakers could not work out many of the fine details themselves and would need to leave issues, like security, up to other agencies, including the sergeants at arms.

"This is an act of showing congressional support for New York," said Kori Bernards, a spokeswoman for House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.), who supports the resolution.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3338) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3338, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2002. I wish to commend Chairman LEWIS, Ranking Member MURTHA, and their staff for again crafting a bill that is appropriate for those who risk their lives to protect our country, our freedoms, and our way of life.

We have learned in recent months that we live in an uncertain time and an unstable world. We in Congress must always remember that the first priority of the Federal Government is to provide for the national defense.

This bill delivers on that priority and demonstrates our commitment to our Nation's defense by providing \$317.5 billion in discretionary spending, \$19 billion over last year's bill. The bill ensures that our military remains the strongest, most prepared force in the world, and strengthens our efforts to deal with the new threats that our Nation faces by providing \$11.7 billion under the Counter-Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction Title. The bill also fulfills our obligation to house, clothe, feed, and provide for the health care of the members of our armed services and their families by providing a 4.6 percent pay raise and funding an increase in housing allowances.

Mr. Chairman, it is for these and many other reasons that I gladly support H.R. 3338 today and encourage my colleagues to do the same. At this very moment, men and women of our Armed Forces are overseas fighting a war on terrorism and evil. While we have all stood in this Chamber and commended them for their service, now is the time to support this vital legislation that will ensure our troops remain safe and successful, now and for years to come.

November 29, 2001

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3338) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Chairman, the tragic events of September 11th have left a profound impact on this country. As a representative from New York, I have witnessed firsthand the destruction and grief endured by the survivors. I've watched our brave rescue personnel work tirelessly to recover lost loved ones. Cleanup crews continue to work around the clock in hope of rebuilding what was destroyed. There is no question that New Yorkers are united in their effort to overcome the challenges ahead of them.

As we know, in the aftermath of September 11th, Congress quickly passed the 2001 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States (P.L. 107-38). This supplemental appropriates \$40 billion and allows the Bush Administration to spend the first \$20 billion with minimal reporting requirements. The remaining \$20 billion can be spent only after the Administration has specifically requested it and Congress has passed a bill reported by the Appropriations Committee. New Yorkers were promised \$20 billion of these funds to help with relief efforts.

I supported this legislation because it stipulates that "not less than one-half of the \$40,000,000,000 shall be for disaster recovery activities and assistance related to the terrorist attacks in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania . . ." However, only \$3.2 billion has been released and the Administration has only requested an additional \$6.3 billion for a total of \$9.5 billion. That's less than half of what was promised.

I am extremely concerned that New York is not receiving the full \$20 billion in emergency funds promised by the President in this bill. New York can not afford to wait for future legislation allocating the remainder of the \$20 billion in emergency funds it was promised. Overtime pay for cleanup workers must be paid. Unemployment Insurance funds are rapidly depleting. Continuation of COBRA must continue. These are real concerns that will require, at a minimum, the immediate allocation of the \$20 billion in emergency funds.

Equally important, however, is the urgent need to equip our military personnel with the resources and tools they need to prevent future acts of terrorism. We are at war with an enemy that is not restricted to country borders or even continents. The 7-percent increase in funding addresses many of our military's needs and prepares this country for the long road of eradicating all terrorists.

I have little doubt that New York will eventually receive the full \$20 billion promised by the President, but I would have preferred to receive these funds today. The President must